pension of the retired Government servants be restored after 12 years instead of 15 years as at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that similar recommendation was also made by the Supreme Court in a judgement relating to the case of pensioners;

(c) if so, whether Government would take a fresh look into the demand which has also been repeatedly put forward by the Pensioners' Associations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRTMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The recommendation made by the Fifth Central Pay Commission and the demand by a number of Pensioners' Associations for restoration of commuted portion of pension after 12 years instead of the present 15 years was examined by the Government. However, taking into account various factors including financial implications, the Government decided not to accept the reduction in the period of restoration of commuted portion of pension from 15 years to 12 years.

Funds to Gujarat under Gokul Gram Yojana

277. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by Government to Gujarat during the last two years for Gokul Gram Yojana;

(b) the funds utilised, year-wise;

(c) the number of villages covered during the said period; and

(d) the additional funds proposed to the allocated for 2002-2003 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The approved outlay,

expenditure incurred and number of villages covered under Gokul Gram Yojana during the last two years *i.e.* 2000-01 and 2001-2002 is given below :

Years	Approved Outlay (Rs. crore)	Expenditure (Rs. crore)	No. of villages covered
2000-2001	141.00	77.15	3676
2001-2002	63.59	52.64 (Anticipated)	7334

(d) Planning Commission has agreed to allocate Rs. 30.00 crores as an Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for the Gokul Gram Yojana for Annual Plan 2002-03.

Special group for creation of employment opportunities

†278. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any special group to create employment opportunities in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said special group has made any recommendations regarding creation of employment opportunities in the country; and

(d) if so, what effective steps are being taken by Government to implement those recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Special Group on Targeting 10 Million Employment Opportunities per year over the Tenth Plan Period was constituted by Planning Commission under the Chairmanship

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi